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VIA ECFS

December 2, 2016

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket
No. 11-42, CenturyLink Lifeline Broadband Forbearance Notice**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accord with the Lifeline Modernization Third Report & Order¹ and the recent Wireline Competition Bureau Public Notice,² CenturyLink, Inc. (CenturyLink), on behalf of its incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) subsidiaries that are Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs), hereby provides notice of its intent to take Lifeline broadband forbearance relief as follows. CenturyLink is electing the forbearance for all areas where it is permitted to elect the forbearance. This includes all areas where CenturyLink is not receiving high-cost support, specifically all census blocks where it is not required to deploy broadband internet access service (BIAS) at speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload (10/1) with the CAF Phase II model support it accepted on August 26, 2015.³ The elected forbearance includes the CAF Phase II-eligible census blocks for which CenturyLink provided notice to the FCC and Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) on December 31, 2015 that it would not be deploying BIAS under the CAF II program.⁴ The elected forbearance also includes CAF Phase II-eligible census blocks that were incorrectly designated as within CenturyLink's service territory.

¹ Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, FCC 16-38, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration (rel. Apr. 27, 2016) (*Order*).

² See Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, DA 16-1316 (Nov. 22, 2016) (*Lifeline Broadband Forbearance Guidance*).

³ CenturyLink letter from Maxine Moreau to Marlene H. Dortch (FCC), Century Link Acceptance and Declination of Connect America Phase II Support; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, (Aug. 26, 2015).

⁴ These census blocks were provided to USAC and the FCC via e-mail on December 31, 2015.

In accord with the *Lifeline Broadband Forbearance Guidance*, CenturyLink is identifying the areas where it is electing the forbearance by specifically identifying the census blocks in which it is not electing forbearance. Attachment 2 to this Notice is an Excel file listing each census block and associated FIPS Code where CenturyLink will offer BIAS pursuant to the Lifeline obligation. CenturyLink has made every effort to comprehensively identify the census blocks for which it is not seeking forbearance in Attachment 2. Nevertheless, if it is later discovered that any census blocks were misidentified, CenturyLink reserves the right to supplement this filing to make administrative corrections to Attachment 2.

In the listed CAF II census blocks CenturyLink will be subject to the Lifeline broadband service obligation on BIAS that it commercially offers pursuant to the CAF II high-cost USF obligations and such service meets the Lifeline program's minimum service requirements, as provided in the *Order*⁵. In accord with the FCC Public Notice providing guidance regarding Lifeline Broadband Provider designation,⁶ CenturyLink will update this forbearance election in the event that there are additional census blocks for which CenturyLink is not receiving qualifying high-cost support.⁷

Also, in accord with the *Lifeline Broadband Forbearance Guidance*, Attachment 1 to this notice is a list of each ETC for which CenturyLink elects this forbearance. With respect to "type of designation", all of CenturyLink's ETCs are high-cost/non-Lifeline-only ETCs.

In areas where CenturyLink is electing forbearance, we nevertheless expect to offer Lifeline discounts in our ETC-designated areas where we have at least 10/1 BIAS commercially available.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

/s/ John E. Benedict

cc: TelcoLifeline@usac.org

⁵ *Order*, ¶ 311. CenturyLink's high-cost obligations are for a "set number of locations in eligible census blocks" as described in the FCC document titled "High-Cost Recipient Lifeline Broadband Obligations" and linked under "ETCs that are not Lifeline-only (High-Cost recipients)" at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers>.

⁶ See Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Designation as a Lifeline Broadband Provider and Lifeline Broadband Minimum Service Standards, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, Public Notice, DA 16-1118 (Sept. 30, 2016).

⁷ The Commission has made clear that ETCs receiving frozen high-cost support are not required to offer Lifeline-supported broadband services in their designated areas. *Order*, ¶ 311.

COMPANY NAME	DBA NAME	SAC #	ETC Designation Order	ETC Designation Date
CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Northern)	CenturyLink	259789	Alabama PSC, Order, Docket No. 28317	12/26/2001
CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC (Southern)	CenturyLink	259788	Alabama PSC, Order, Docket No. 28317	12/26/2001
Gulf Telephone Company, LLC	CenturyLink	250298	Alabama PSC, Order, Docket No. 25980	12/18/1997
Qwest Corporation (Arizona)	CenturyLink QC	455101	Arizona Corporation Commission, Decision No. 60513, Docket No. T-1051-97-637	12/18/997
CenturyTel of Arkansas, Inc.	CenturyLink	401705	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Central Arkansas, LLC	CenturyLink	401144	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Mountain Home, Inc.	CenturyLink	401711	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Redfield, Inc.	CenturyLink	401720	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Siloam Springs)	CenturyLink	401143	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of South Arkansas, Inc.	CenturyLink	401727	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Northwest Arkansas, LLC (Russellville)	CenturyLink	401142	Arkansas PSC, Order No. 2, Docket No. 97-326-U	11/7/1997
CenturyTel of Colorado, Inc.	CenturyLink	462208	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (Colorado) f/k/a US WEST Communications, Inc.	CenturyLink QC	465102	Colorado PUC, Decision No. C97-1381, Docket No. 97A-474T	12/19/1997
The El Paso County Telephone Company	None	462187	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Eagle, Inc.	CenturyLink	462185	Detail pending	Detail pending
Embarq Florida, Inc.	CenturyLink	210341	Order No. PSC-97-1262-FOF-TP, Docket No. 970644-TP and Docket No. 97-744-TP	10/14/1997
Coastal Utilities, Inc.	CenturyLink	220356	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Idaho)	CenturyLink	472223	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Idaho, Inc.	CenturyLink	472225	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (Southern Idaho)	CenturyLink QC	475103	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (Northern Idaho)	CenturyLink QC	475162	Detail pending	Detail pending
Gallatin River Communications, LLC	CenturyLink GRC	341057	Illinois Comm., Order, Docket No. 98-0321 Order, Docket No. 99-0612	10/21/1998 2/24/2000
CenturyTel of Odon, Inc. f/k/a Century Telephone of Odon, Inc.	CenturyLink	320801	IUB, Opinion, Cause No. 41052-ETC-1	12/16/1997
CenturyTel of Central Indiana, Inc. f/k/a Century Telephone of Central Indiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	320747	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Opinion, Cause No. 41052-ETC-09	12/9/1998
United Telephone Company of Indiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	320832	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Opinion, Cause No. 41052-ETC-137	12/16/1997
CenturyTel of Postville, Inc. f/k/a Postville Telephone Company	CenturyLink	351274	IUB, In re: Universal Service-Eligible Carriers, Order Granting Waivers and Designating Eligible Carriers, Docket No. IOWA ADMIN. CODE 199-39.2(4) (1997)	12/3/1997
Qwest Corporation (Iowa) f/k/a US WEST Communications, Inc.	CenturyLink QC	355141	Order Granting Wwaivers and Designating Eligible Carriers, In re: Universal Service-Eligible Carrier, Docket No. IOWA ADMIN. CODE 199-39.2(4) (1997)	12/3/1997
CenturyTel of Chester, Inc. f/k/a Century Telephone of Chester, Inc.	CenturyLink	351126	Order Granting Waivers and Designating Eligible Carriers, In re: Universal Service-Eligible Carrier, Docket No. IOWA ADMIN. CODE 199-39.2(4) (1997)	12/3/1997
Embarq Missouri, Inc. (Kansas)	CenturyLink	411957	Detail pending	Detail pending
United Telephone Company of Eastern Kansas & United Telephone Company of Southcentral Kansas	CenturyLink	411317	Order, Docket No. 98-GIMT-241-GIT	12/5/1997

United Telephone Company of Kansas	None	411842	Order, Docket No. 98-GIMT-241-GIT	12/5/1997
CenturyTel of North Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270436	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of East Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270440	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Central Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270423	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Chatham, LLC	CenturyLink	270427	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Evangeline, LLC	CenturyLink	270434	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Ringgold, LLC	CenturyLink	270439	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Southeast Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270424	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Southwest Louisiana, LLC	CenturyLink	270442	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Northwest Louisiana, Inc.	CenturyLink	270431	Docket/Order No. U-22769	10/22/1997
CenturyTel of Northern Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310705	Opinion and Order, Case No. U-11548	11/25/1997
CenturyTel of Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310702	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel Midwest - Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310671	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Upper Michigan, Inc.	CenturyLink	310689	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Minnesota, Inc.	CenturyLink	361445	Order Designating Petitioners As Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, Allowing Additional Time to Provide Certain Services, Approving Rate Reduction for Qualified Low Income Customers, and Requiring Filings, Docket No. P-99/M-97-1270 and Docket No. P-551/M-96-135	12/23/1997
Embarq Minnesota, Inc.	CenturyLink	361456	Order Designating Petitioners As Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, Allowing Additional Time to Provide Certain Services, Approving Rate Reduction for Qualified Low Income Customers, and Requiring Filings, Docket No. P-99/M-97-1270 and Docket No. P-551/M-96-135	12/23/1997
Qwest Corporation (Minnesota) f/a/a US WEST Communications, Inc.	CenturyLink QC	365142	Order Designating Petitioners As Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, Allowing Additional Time to Provide Certain Services, Approving Rate Reduction for Qualified Low Income Customers, and Requiring Filings, Docket No. P-99/M-97-1270 and Docket No. P-551/M-96-135	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of North Mississippi, Inc.	None	280458	Mississippi PSC, Order, Docket No. 01-AD-573	8/14/2001
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Belle-Herman) f/k/a GTE Midwest	CenturyLink	429785	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-188	12/31/1997
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Central) f/k/a GTE Midwest	CenturyLink	429784	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-188	12/31/1997
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southern) f/k/a GTE Midwest	CenturyLink	429786	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-188	12/31/1997
CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC (Southwest) f/k/a GTE Midwest	CenturyLink	429787	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-188	12/31/1997
Spectra Communications Group, LLC f/k/a GTE Midwest	CenturyLink	421151	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-188	12/31/1997
Embarq Missouri, Inc. f/k/a United Telephone Company d/b/a Sprint	CenturyLink	421957	Missouri PSC, Order, Case No. TO-98-205	12/31/1997
CenturyTel of Montana, Inc.	CenturyLink	482249	Montana PSC, Order, Docket D96.2.18	9/2/1997
Qwest Corporation (Montana)	CenturyLink QC	485104	Montana PSC, Order, Docket D96.2.18	9/2/1997
Qwest Corporation (Nebraska)	CenturyLink QC	375143	Nebraska PSC, Order, Application No. C-1604	12/15/1997
United Telephone Company of the West (Nebraska)	CenturyLink	371595	Nebraska PSC, Order, Application No. C-1604	12/15/1997

Central Telephone Company (Nevada)	CenturyLink	552348	Nevada PUC, Order, Docket No. 11016	12/30/1997
CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc. (Nevada)	CenturyLink	552223	Nevada PUC, Order, Docket No. 97-11042	12/30/1997
United Telephone Company of New Jersey, Inc.	CenturyLink	160138	NJ BPU, I/M/O Petition of the United Telephone Company of New Jersey Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Order, Docket No. TT97120880	1/28/1998
CenturyTel of the Southwest, Inc.	CenturyLink	492274	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (New Mexico)	CenturyLink QC	495105	Detail pending	Detail pending
Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company LLC	CenturyLink	230470	Detail pending	Detail pending
Central Telephone Company (North Carolina)	CenturyLink	230471	Detail pending	Detail pending
Mebtel, Inc.	CenturyLink	230485	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (North Dakota) f/a/a US WEST Communications, Inc.	CenturyLink QC	385144	North Dakota PSC, Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for North Dakota, Case No. PU-314-97-522	12/17/1997
CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.	CenturyLink	300630	Ohio PUC, In the Matter of the Commission Investigation of the Intrastate Universal Service Discounts, Order, Case No. 97-632-TP-COI	12/18/1997
United Telephone Company of Ohio	CenturyLink	300661	Ohio PUC, In the Matter of the Commission Investigation of the Intrastate Universal Service Discounts, Second Supplemental Finding and Order, Order, Case No. 97-632-TP-COI	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Oregon, Inc.	CenturyLink	532361	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (Oregon)	CenturyLink QC	535163	Detail pending	Detail pending
United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Oregon)	CenturyLink	532400	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, Inc.	CenturyLink	532361	Detail pending	Detail pending
United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania LLC, The	CenturyLink	170209	PA PUC, Petition of the United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Sprint/United) for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) - Docket No. P-00971285 & In Re: Formal Investigation to Examine and Establish Updated Universal Service Principles and Policies for Telecommunications Services In the Commonwealth, Opinion and Order, Docket No. P-00971285	12/26/1997
United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC	CenturyLink of the Carolinas	240506	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (South Dakota)	CenturyLink QC	395145	South Dakota PUC, Order Granting and Denying Request for Reconsideration, Docket NO. TC97-163, Amended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order and Notice of Entry of Order, Docket No. TC97-163	3/10/1998 12/17/1997
CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.	CenturyLink Claiborne	290557	TRA, In re: Universal service Generic Contested Case, Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), The Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 254(c) and FCC Order 97-157, Docket No. 97-00888	12/17/1997

CenturyTel of Ooltewah-Collegedale, Inc.	CenturyLink Ooltewah-Collegedale	290574	TRA, In re: Universal service Generic Contested Case, Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), The Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 254(c) and FCC Order 97-157, Docket No. 97-00888	12/17/1997
United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Tennessee)	CenturyLink	290567	TRA, In re: Universal service Generic Contested Case, Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e), The Telecommunications Act of 1996, Section 254(c) and FCC Order 97-157, Docket No. 97-00888	12/17/1997
CenturyTel of Adamsville, Inc.	CenturyLink Adamsville	290552	Detail pending	Detail pending
Central Telephone Company of Texas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442114	Texas PUC, Order, Project No. 18100	12/10/1997
CenturyTel of Lake Dallas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442101	Texas PUC, Order, Project No. 18100	12/10/1997
CenturyTel of Port Aransas, Inc.	CenturyLink	442117	Texas PUC, Order, Project No. 18100	12/10/1997
CenturyTel of San Marcos, Inc.	CenturyLink	442140	Texas PUC, Order, Project No. 18100	12/10/1997
United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc	CenturyLink	442084	Texas PUC, Order, Project No. 18100	12/10/1997
Qwest Corporation (Utah)	CenturyLink QC	505107	Utah PSC Order Granting Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Docket No. 97-049-30	12/23/1997
United Telephone Southeast, LLC (Virginia)	CenturyLink	190567	Detail pending	Detail pending
Central Telephone Company of Virginia	CenturyLink	190254	Detail pending	Detail pending
CenturyTel of Cowiche, Inc.	CenturyLink	522410	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Order, Docket No. UT-970356	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Washington, Inc. & CenturyTel of Inter-Island, Inc.	CenturyLink	522408	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Order, Docket No. UT-970341	12/23/1997
Qwest Corporation (Washington)	CenturyLink QC	525161	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Order, Docket No. UT-970354 Order No. 1, Docket No. UT-043030	12/23/1997 05/26/2004
United Telephone Company of the Northwest (Washington)	CenturyLink	522400	Order, Docket No. UT-970349	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Larsen-Readfield, LLC	CenturyLink	330898	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Monroe County, LLC	CenturyLink	330913	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Central Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	331159	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Fairwater-Brandon-Alto, LLC	CenturyLink	330877	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Forestville, LLC	CenturyLink	330884	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Kendall, LLC	CenturyLink	330924	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Wayside)	CenturyLink	330970	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Casco)	CenturyLink	330857	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Cencom)	CenturyLink	330841	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Platteville)	CenturyLink	330934	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Thorp)	CenturyLink	330959	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of the Midwest-Wisconsin, LLC (Northwest)	CenturyLink	330922	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330956	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997

CenturyTel of Southern Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330931	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330895	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
Telephone USA of Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	331155	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Northwest Wisconsin, LLC	CenturyLink	330950	Wisconsin PSC, Order, Docket No. T5-TI-162	12/23/1997
CenturyTel of Wyoming, Inc.	CenturyLink	512299	Detail pending	Detail pending
Qwest Corporation (Wyoming)	CenturyLink QC	515108	Detail pending	Detail pending
United Telephone Company of the West (Wyoming)	CenturyLink of the West	511595	Detail pending	Detail pending